

Region 1Hot Topics**PFAS Interview at Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire**

On February 12, Air Force and the City of Portsmouth were interviewed by PBS NewsHour regarding the discovery, response, and remediation of PFAS. A second journalist working from Japan has reached out to Air Force and NH DES with a similar request for interviews. EPA was not contacted for either interview.

Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port Modeling

On February 18, R1 sent a comment letter to Excelerate Energy regarding the draft air modeling protocol for the Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port facility, located about 13 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. Excelerate is planning to submit an air permit application to R1 for additional operations at the liquid natural gas import facility. The facility is also preparing an application for a new industrial water permit, which will be issued by R1 as well.

Region 1 Issues Clean Air Act Compliance Orders to Ammonia Refrigeration Facilities

R1 issued two administrative orders on consent to Anheuser-Busch, LLC, operator of a Merrimack, NH, brewery, and Maritime International, Inc./Connecticut Freezers, Inc., operators of a cold storage warehouse and distribution facility in East Hartford, CT. Both facilities use anhydrous ammonia in their refrigeration systems that were found to be in violation of Risk Management Plan and General Duty Clause requirements of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act.

Brownfields/Removal Coordination in Montague, Massachusetts Opportunity Zone

On February 12, R1 met with the Franklin Regional Council of governments for their new community-wide assessment grant. Following the meeting, the group joined representatives of MassDEP and the Town of Montague at the Railroad Salvage Site to evaluate cleanup options. The property is located in an Opportunity Zone, and the community has plans to redevelop it for housing.

Biddeford Mill Boiler House Headed to Cleanup

On February 18, R1 met with representatives of the Marble Block Redevelopment Corporation and Maine DEP on cleanup of the former boiler house for the West Point Stevens Mill Complex in Biddeford, Maine. The team conducted a site walk through and pre-meeting prior to hosting a public meeting on the proposed cleanup. Mixed-use redevelopment is proposed in-line with the adjacent Pepperell Mill Complex.

Brownfields Cleanup Serves Opportunity Zone in Central Falls, Rhode Island

On February 19, R1 participated in a kickoff meeting for the Central Falls Landing cleanup project. The City of Central Falls received a \$200,000 cleanup grant from EPA for this project. The cleanup will be completed in the fall. The re-use includes open space with access to the Blackstone River, a restaurant, and commercial office space. These new amenities will serve residents living in an Opportunity Zone adjacent to the site.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Approval of New Hampshire 2018 303(d) list**

EPA R1 has completed its review of New Hampshire's 2018 303(d) list and plans to approve the list by the end of February. R1 worked closely with NH DES during the preparation of both the draft and final versions of the 2018 list, as well as the response to comments.

Region 2Hot Topics**Consent Decree in CAA Asbestos Case**

On February 14, a consent decree was entered in a Clean Air Act case, *US v. Dover Greens, LLC*. The decree resolves asbestos NESHAP violations that occurred in connection with renovation work in 19 buildings on the campus of the former Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center in Wingdale, NY, in October 2013. The violations included failure to inspect for asbestos, failure to adequately wet the asbestos, not using leak-tight containers, proper labeling, or disposal practices, and failing to provide access to EPA inspectors. The defendant will pay a civil penalty of \$575,000, implement a workplan to abate the 19 buildings involved in the illegal renovation, and take other precautionary steps.

PR Earthquake

On February 13, EPA issued a third No Action Assurance for a portion of the request made on January 14 by PREPA (the PR electric utility). This NAA deals with fuel testing requirements and fuel limits for multiple units at various PREPA plants. EPA is awaiting additional information from PREPA before deciding how to respond to the remaining portion of the request regarding possible PSD violations. On February 14, eight additional municipalities were added to the six already eligible for public assistance. EPA expects to be authorized to carry out water infrastructure and septic system assessments in these added locations.

Puerto Rico Recovery

FEMA reports that Admiral Brown, the White House's Special Representative for PR Disaster Recovery, is going to be in Puerto Rico the week of February 24. He has requested a briefing from all agencies involved in the recovery effort. The briefing is scheduled for February 24. FEMA has asked that appropriate leadership from all agencies attend. EPA will be represented by Carmen Guerrero, R2's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division Director.

GAO Review of Federal Cleanup of Vieques/Culebra

We received notification that GAO will be assessing the status of the federal cleanup/decontamination of the former bombing ranges and associated facilities on the islands of Vieques and Culebra (both offshore of the island of Puerto Rico). An entrance conference is being scheduled for the week of February 24.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

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| February 25-27 | NEJAC Meeting: RA Lopez will attend the NEJAC meeting in Jacksonville, FL. He will be joined by colleagues including R2's Caribbean Environmental Protection Division Director Carmen Guerrero, Strategic Programs Director Dave Kluesner, and EJ Coordinator Towana Joseph. They will participate in a panel discussion on February 27 regarding Caribbean Disaster Recovery, Resiliency and Environmental Justice. |
| February 25 | Allied Textile Printing: EPA is scheduled to brief Rep. Bill Pascrell's staff on the status of this removal action site in Paterson, NJ. The site involves former factory buildings contaminated with asbestos and other hazardous substances located within the boundaries the Great Falls National Historical Park. The City of Paterson and the National Park Service wish to preserve at least one, and possibly more of these buildings, but the structures are in very bad condition. It will be difficult or impossible to decontaminate most of them while also preserving them. |

Region 3Hot Topics**Grand Opening for \$5 Million Speedway Brownfields Redevelopment Project, Pittsburgh, PA**

The opening of Speedway's commercial fueling station occurred in November 2019. Eighteen dedicated tractor-trailer parking spaces and a convenience store at the entrance to the new CSX Intermodal Terminal will make the Rocks Multimodal Park and community even more attractive to shipping, transportation, and logistics companies looking to incorporate intermodal services into their supply chain. The redevelopment of the P&LE Brownfield was initiated by and made possible through \$600,000 in EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant funds awarded to the North Side Industrial Development Company, Inc. To date, the project has received more than \$2.7 million in state funding to assist with the continued redevelopment of the McKees Rocks site in addition to the \$60 million investment by CSX for the Intermodal Rail Terminal which opened September 2017. Trinity Development provided 100 percent of the match required to utilize the state grant funding, in addition to financing the remainder of the sitework (environmental remediation, demolition, utility & infrastructure installation, and road construction), which has allowed the project to proceed at no expense to McKees Rocks Borough. The entire brownfield site spans 105 acres with 53 acres in Stowe Township and 52 acres in McKees Rocks. CSX assembled and developed all the property in Stowe Township to complete the CSX Intermodal Rail Terminal. Trinity Development's project has focused on redevelopment within the Borough of McKees Rocks. McKees Rocks is one of roughly 8,700 Opportunity Zones across the country competing for investment capital.

CBPO to Sign Memo on Funds for Farm Projects

The CBPO will sign a memo on behalf of R3 stating that recipients of EPA Chesapeake Bay grant funds may use those funds to supplement USDA grants for agricultural projects if USDA determines that its grant authorities allow the use of other federal funds to meet their cost-share and partner contribution requirements.

Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area Site Community Visit, Minden, WV

R3 staff were on site during the week of February 10 to meet with local community members, the Technical Assistance Grant applicant, and local government officials. Community interest in the site remains high. A call with Senator Manchin's staff was also held on February 12 to provide an update on the site removal, remedial, and community involvement activities. Additionally, a fact sheet is being prepared and will be mailed later in February to provide a sitewide update to the community.

Conference Call with Community Members about Norwood Site Assessment

On February 11, EPA held a conference call with two members of the Concerned Citizens of Norwood group regarding the ongoing Norwood Landfill Site Assessment. The goal of the call was to respond to questions posed to EPA in multiple emails following the public meeting on November 21, 2019. During the call, the site team provided information on upcoming sampling and attempted to answer questions posed by the group. ATSDR and the Pennsylvania Department of Health participated in the call and responded to health questions. The site team also discussed its communication plan for the Site, which includes sharing information and updates via an EPA website under construction. The team encouraged the group to view and submit FAQs via the website. The site team is actively working on the website and expects it to be published in the next few weeks. The team will distribute the website information to the larger community once it goes live.

OCTEA Conducts Smart Sectors Program Site Tour with Pennsauken Golf Club in New Jersey

On February 13, EPA Outdoor Recreation Smart Sector, a partnership program that provides a platform to collaborate with regulated sectors and develop sensible approaches that better protect the environment and public health, participated in a tour of the Pennsauken Golf Course by its superintendent. This was a follow up to the meeting R3 staff had with representatives from the PGA of America and their charitable foundation "PGA Reach," Philadelphia region. During the meeting, the superintendent of the Pennsauken Golf Course expressed concerns regarding flooding occurring at the golf course during heavy wet weather events. The team visited the golf course to observe flooding and stormwater control issues, identify causes, and discuss methods to help

reduce the flooding and damages to the golf course due to excessive stormwater runoff. The Smart Sectors team will continue to provide guidance to the superintendent and help streamline mitigation planning.

Region 3 continues collaboration efforts with DNREC Water Division

On February 3, EPA staff and program managers traveled to Delaware to meet with DNREC management and staff to discuss the current implementation of the state's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Discussed topics: program overview, resources, inspection planning, enforcement, State Review Framework (SRF), compliance monitoring and data management. EPA staff conducted the quarterly review of the Significant Noncompliance facility list as part of the ongoing National Compliance Initiative.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Servidio has the following event scheduled:

February 26 RA Servidio will meet with PA Senator Elder Vogel Jr. (47th District)

Region 4

Hot Topics

Westside Lead Site (Atlanta, GA)

R4 is moving forward with the expansion of the Westside Lead Site by three residential blocks. We are in active communication with the City of Atlanta and GA EPD. Over the next week, direct communication with impacted residents will take place and a community meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week of March.

Port Everglades Ocean Dumping Rulemaking (Florida)

R4 signed the draft rule for modifying the Port Everglades ODMDS.

Pearl River Meeting (Mississippi)

On February 19, RA Walker met with the Audubon Mississippi, Mississippi Sierra Club, and Health Gulf organizations to listen to their interest in the Pearl River Basin Demonstration Project.

FL 404 Assumption (Florida)

On February 19, FDEP published the proposed rule for their Assumption regulations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

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| February 20 | RA Walker will facilitate a call between AA Anne Idsal and Commissioner Gary Black, Georgia Department of Agriculture, on the Tier 4 issue. |
| February 25-27 | On February 25, RA Walker will deliver a presentation to the NEJAC and attend the other parts of the meeting. Open Press. Jacksonville, FL. |

Region 5Hot Topics**Archer Daniels Midland to Perform Maintenance on CO2 Sequestration Well**

EPA staff is talking to ADM on February 21 to learn more about a proposed well maintenance event in Decatur, IL, that will release 100 tons of CO2. ADM in Decatur, IL, notified EPA of its intent to conduct maintenance activities on a Class VI CO2 injection well to improve the well's injectability. This is the first CO2 sequestration well in the nation. According to ADM, these activities will release 100 tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. The event will also cause the temporary backflow of injection fluid to the surface, which deviates from permit conditions. During the one-hour event, ADM maintains the site will be secure and the company will conduct CO2 atmospheric tests and well monitoring. Although ADM states this proposal "is considered a normal maintenance procedure on Class II CO2 injection wells and has a high probability of success with little or no risk," EPA received no further information to substantiate this statement. To date, over 1.5 million metric tons of CO2 have been injected into this well.

EPA Receives 36 Applications for Trash Free Waters Grants

In response to EPA's request for GLRI Trash Free Waters competitive grant applications, 36 applications were submitted to the Great Lakes National Program Office by the February 14 application deadline. The 36 applications seek a total of \$8.6 million in funding, well in excess of the \$2 million available. There was a broad diversity of applicants, including several first-time applicants for GLRI funds. GLNPO will now begin the process of reviewing the grants and, under a best-case scenario, will begin notifying grant finalists by late April, with the actual awards going out in June.

EPA Proposes Lemont and Pekin Areas Now Meet Federal Air Quality Standard for Sulfur Dioxide

EPA is proposing to redesignate the Lemont and Pekin, IL, SO2 nonattainment areas to attainment of the 2010 SO2 NAAQS. The Lemont area is a portion of Cook and Will counties. The Pekin area is a portion of Peoria and Tazewell counties. Illinois established new emission limits for several facilities in each area to bring the areas into attainment. More than 200,000 people in Illinois are now breathing cleaner air.

Sterilizing Firm Medline Temporarily Resumes Operations to Conduct Stack Testing

EPA and Illinois EPA staff will observe stack tests conducted by Medline during the week of February 24. Medline Industries paused ethylene oxide sterilization operations at its Waukegan, IL, facility in mid-December when it was unable to install controls by the deadline set by a new Illinois law. Now that the required controls are installed and operational, Medline resumed sterilization under an agreement with Illinois EPA that will allow the facility to conduct a stack test under representative conditions during the week of February 24. After the stack test is completed, Medline cannot resume ethylene oxide sterilization until Illinois EPA approves the stack test results. Going forward, Medline will not be allowed to emit more than 150 pounds of ethylene oxide per year, compared to the 3,159 pounds it reported emitting in 2018.

Sewer Lines Near Amphenol Site Show Elevated VOCs

EPA is working to address the elevated VOCs still being found in sanitary sewer connections near the Amphenol site in Franklin, IN. Despite a recently completed cleanup to remove contaminated soil in the neighborhood near the Amphenol corrective action site, some elevated levels of VOCs have still been detected in residential sewer cleanouts. No VOCs have been detected in homes. R5 and Amphenol are investigating on-site sources of VOCs and planning next steps to address remaining contamination. In the meantime, R5 has notified affected residents and will brief congressional offices and other stakeholders on calls this week and next. An update to the Amphenol webpage will be posted to inform the community at-large about the issue.

Region 5 meets with ORD

On February 20-21, RA Thiede and other R5 managers met with ORD senior managers. The discussion provided opportunities for collaboration between R5 and ORD in R5's role as Lead Region. ORD managers toured the R5 Laboratory Services and Applied Sciences Division and discussed workload assessments.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 24 R5 to announce \$1.8 million awarded for GLRI water-quality trading grants. At a press conference next week, R5 will announce over \$1.8 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants awarded to five organizations for water-quality trading projects.

Region 6Hot Topics**Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, New Mexico**

On February 10, the New Mexico Environment Department announced that they, along with the citizens of Clovis, were notified by EPCOR of the presence of PFAS at the entry point of the Clovis public drinking water system. EPCOR, the company that owns and operates Clovis's public drinking water system, conducted testing for 21 PFAS chemicals in its production wells. Ten of the 82 wells indicated the presence of PFAS, according to EPCOR. EPCOR immediately took the affected wells out of service. Levels are below the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory. The New Mexico Congressional Delegation also issued a letter to the Secretary of Defense requesting assistance in delineation of the plume and remediation related to Cannon Air Force Base. NMED continues to seek a confidentiality agreement with EPA covering technical assistance related to this activity.

Technical Assistance Request, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Oklahoma

On February 7, R6 received a request for technical assistance regarding a bill being discussed in an Oklahoma State Legislative session that would include language exempting pheromones and pheromone traps from regulation as devices under Oklahoma state law. R6 has consulted with headquarters for information on whether this poses a threat to Oklahoma's ability to regulate in accordance with FIFRA. R6 continues to work with Oklahoma and the Office of Pesticide Programs to clarify and discuss the regulation, providing information from FIFRA and 40 CFR 152.25 as pertinent.

Shell Pipeline Spill, Gonzalez, Louisiana

On February 14, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office notified R6 of a discharge of jet fuel from a Shell pipeline north of Norco, LA, that supplies fuel to the New Orleans airport. The spill volume is estimated at 260 bbl. R6 was dispatched to monitor response activities and coordinate with the state agencies and Shell Pipeline personnel under Unified Command (UC). The spill occurred in a marsh area accessible only by boat from a landing area three miles away. Most of the spill is concentrated within a 0.3-acre area of low water floating marsh with a total footprint of 1.6 acres. Oil recovery operations are being continued and a long-term remediation plan is being developed for review and approval by Unified Command.

Conroe Creosoting Superfund Site, Conroe, Texas

R6 continues to work with developer Trammel Crow Company (TCC), TCEQ, the Texas Attorney General's Office, and DOJ on the terms of a CERCLA liability agreement. TCC is interested in purchasing and developing a Home Depot distribution center on the Conroe Creosoting Site and has requested a liability release agreement from EPA and TCEQ. The goal is to finalize a liability agreement by mid-March so TCC can proceed with the property purchase while the agreement goes through public notice and is finalized in spring 2020.

Tar Creek Superfund Site, Picher, Oklahoma

On February 18, EPA issued a letter to a prospective purchaser for a rural property located within the Tar Creek Operable Unit 4 boundary. Part of the property was remediated in 2011, but the southern part of the property of interest was not remediated. The letter provides the potential purchaser the status of current environmental conditions, discusses appropriate reuse, and addresses liability protections.

Oil and Gas Facilities, Permian Basin, West Texas

On February 18, EPA completed the review of responses from all identified companies notified of emissions observed during the flyovers of the Permian Basin in September and October 2019. R6 and TCEQ discussed the next steps for the 27 owners/operators with potential violations. TCEQ will advise R6 in early March if the state is interested in taking the lead on any of these cases. Once EPA hears back from TCEQ, an enforcement approach will be finalized. TCEQ is also assisting EPA with identification of the owners for unmatched facilities. EPA will continue to provide support to the New Mexico Environment Department with preparation of follow up actions for the New Mexico facilities.

Denka Performance Elastomer, La Place, Louisiana

EPA continues to prepare to replace the existing ambient air monitoring networks with a new type of ambient air monitoring (SPods), tentatively scheduled to be deployed the week of March 9, around Denka's neoprene facility in LaPlace, LA. EPA believes the new SPod monitoring will help understand the frequency and magnitude of re-occurring "spikes" of chloroprene and help identify actions that could further reduce Denka's chloroprene emissions. The existing ambient air monitoring network is expected to be discontinued in June 2020. The government enforcement team continues to review Denka and former owner DuPont's respective settlement counteroffers, which were submitted in January 2020. A call to discuss the companies' counteroffers with LDEQ is scheduled for February 27.

Naval Air Stations, Corpus Christi and Kingsville, Texas

The Navy will host a PFAS Public Meeting/Open House for the Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, Walston Outlying Field and NAS Kingsville. The Navy has identified potential PFAS sources on these bases, and they seek to sample off-base private drinking water wells. There are a large number of private offsite drinking water wells within one mile downgradient of NAS Corpus Christi and its associated outlying airfields.

Major Decisions and Events**Louisiana SIP Revision for Withdrawal of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems Requirements, Louisiana**

By February 21, R6 anticipates proposed approval of the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to remove Stage II Gasoline Refueling Vapor Recovery Program. On May 30, 2019, R6 received a request from Louisiana to withdraw Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems requirements.

Louisiana SIP Revision of the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard, Louisiana

By February 21, R6 anticipates proposed approval of the Louisiana Infrastructure SIP Revision for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This action is to demonstrate that the Louisiana SIP meets the Clean Air Act (CAA) infrastructure requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS.

Proposed Final Approval of Oklahoma SIP Revisions, Oklahoma

By February 28, R6 anticipates proposed approval of revisions to the Oklahoma SIP that make general updates and PSD permitting updates for the current Appendix W and public notice requirements. The public comment period on the proposed approval ended January 3. R6 received public comments on the proposal. Response to these comments will be incorporated into the final approval of the FRN.

Arkansas Regional Haze Phase III Domtar SIP Revision, Arkansas

By February 28, R6 intends to propose action on the Arkansas Regional Haze Phase III and Visibility Transport SIP revisions. ADEQ submitted a SIP revision on August 13, 2019, with an alternative measure to BART for SO₂, PM, and NO_x at the Domtar Ashdown Mill that would replace the final portion of the existing Arkansas FIP. The NPRM also addresses the visibility transport (prong 4) provisions in the October 4, 2019, interstate transport SIP submittal, which covers the 2006 and 2012 PM_{2.5} NAAQS, the 2008 and 2015 ozone NAAQS, the 2010 NO₂ NAAQS, and the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS.

Upcoming Events

February 25	NEJAC, Jacksonville, FL
March 3	North Railroad Avenue Plume NPL meeting, Santa Clara Pueblo, NM
March 4	NPDES Delegation Taskforce Meeting, Austin, TX
March 5	Texas Alliance of Energy Producers Meeting, Austin, TX
March 5	Austin Bar Association Environmental Law Section Meeting, Austin, TX
March 6	Texas Water Conservation Association Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, TX

Region 7Hot Topics**Open House for Carter Carburetor Superfund Site in St. Louis, Mo.**

R7 employees participated in an open house event at the Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club in St. Louis, MO, February 18. R7 employees staffed an informational booth and talked with residents about site history and removal actions, as well topics around reuse and revitalization, job training, workforce development and green infrastructure.

Riverfront Superfund Site Sampling

This week an EPA Superfund sampling team is at the Riverfront Superfund Site in New Haven, MO, gathering information that will inform short-term cleanup action and source removal alternatives to address vapor intrusion concerns at a residential home. The Riverfront Superfund site in New Haven, MO, is a former industrial site contaminated with chlorinated volatile organics that was placed on the National Priorities List in 2000. Vapor mitigation systems installed at an affected residence since 2018 have not been fully successful in achieving consistent indoor air levels below risk-based action levels. The resident was temporarily relocated in October 2019. A determination needs to be made on whether the home can be made habitable through additional source removal or mitigation actions at or near the home. Sampling this week will provide results due in March that should provide information needed to make final recommendations/decisions.

KCK Kaw Point WWTP Permit Objection – February 18 Hearing

R7 conducted hearing subsequent to a 30-day public comment period concerning the Unified Government of Kansas City, KS, Kaw Point permit objection resolution. The only attendees at the public hearing were representatives of the Unified Government and the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. KDHE presented exhibits and a revised permit-fact sheet. No other comments were received. R7 will review exhibits, although EPA and KDHE have generally resolved issues. R7 anticipates submitting letter lifting objection, and KDHE will public notice permit.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Region 8

Hot Topics

WYDEQ Class VI Primacy Application

R8 shared the timeline for final action on Wyoming's Underground Injection Control Class VI primacy application with WYDEQ Director Todd Parfitt. With a projected final rulemaking of October 15, R8 is committed to keeping the process moving and compressing the schedule to the extent possible.

Tribal Consultation Offered on Revised Draft UIC Permits for Proposed Uranium Recovery Operation

In August 2019, EPA issued revised UIC permits for the proposed Dewey Burdock uranium recovery project in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota in response to past tribal consultation input and public comments received on its initial draft permits in 2017. Fifteen tribal nations have engaged EPA over the last several years expressing varying concerns about impacts to cultural and environmental resources. In order to ensure EPA can make timely final permit decisions later this year, EPA is requesting tribes respond by early March and informing them that consultations must be completed by April 30.

Break-in at Crow Agency Public Water System

BIA notified R8 on February 14 that the Crow Agency treatment plants were broken into on February 13. Phone calls were conducted with BIA, plant operators, Indian Health Services, R8 on-call OSC, and the responding police official. Based on the available information, the break-in appears to have resulted in the theft of tools only and there was no evidence of tampering with the treatment system.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 26 RA Sopkin and COS will participate in an Opportunity Zone event in Cheyenne, WY. Additionally, they will meet with WY Governor Mark Gordon and congressional staff members from the offices of Senators Enzi and Barrasso and Congresswoman Cheney.

Region 9Hot Topics**Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mines**

R9's Superfund director and his team will meet with representatives of the Navajo Nation Legislative Council to discuss the Council's comments on our draft Abandoned Uranium Mines Ten-Year plan. This meeting responds to the Council's request to engage with us on the plan, in addition to our outreach to the executive branch of Navajo Nation government. Separately, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Justice executed the final addendum to the second-phase settlement agreement for the mine sites. The addendum names 17 more mines to be included in the assessment work to be funded under the agreement.

Public Meeting with Tribal Community on Drinking Water

R9 held a public meeting with residents of a mobile home park located on tribal land in southeastern California to discuss its drinking water situation. R9 issued an emergency order in August to the owner of the mobile home park for serving water exceeding the arsenic standard. While the owner has brought the water system into compliance with the standard, it continues to provide bottled water to residents because permanent fixes have yet to be completed. Staff from Rep. Ruiz's staff and the county health department also attended.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Future U.S./Mexico Border Program**

Our staff, together with staff from R6, OITA, and SEMARNAT, will meet at our San Diego Border Office to review and reach agreement on the first full draft of the Border 2025 plan. The scope encompasses the framework for binational coordination as well as media-specific goals addressing air, water, solid waste, emergency preparedness and response, and marine litter. The draft will be further refined before a public comment planned for May.

Clean Air Act SIP actions

During the next two weeks, R9 will issue final actions on permit rules for the Placer County (CA) air district and rules controlling volatile organic compounds for Mojave Desert (CA) air district. We will also propose action on the San Joaquin Valley serious area plan and extension request for the 2006 PM2.5 standard.

RCRA Permit on Tribal Land

We plan to issue the final RCRA permit for the Evoqua water technologies facility on the Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation in Arizona. Initially issued in 2018, the permit was appealed to the Environmental Appeals Board, which remanded three issues to R9. Our final action will render effective all conditions stayed as a result of the appeal.

Region 10

Hot Topics

Nothing to report

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (WA)

R10's Washington Operations Office Director will attend the next Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force meeting on February 26. The group will hear a presentation about inadvertent PCBs in pigments and the difficulties this creates for paper recycling. While in Spokane, the Director will also attend the Washington Department of Ecology Leadership Team meeting to brief the new director on a variety of topics including cleanup of a Spokane-area site with PCB contamination.

Santiam River/Highway 22 Tanker Truck Spill (OR)

On February 16, a tanker truck was involved in a single-vehicle accident on Oregon State Highway 22 and spilled close to 8,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel into a ditch. Fuel from the spill seeped through the soil under the highway and into the North Santiam River where there are salmon spawning beds and downstream drinking water intakes. R10 sent two On Scene Coordinators to the scene who are working with ODOT, ODEQ, the trucking company's responders, and the natural resource trustees to excavate the contaminated soil and contain the oil seeping from the bank. They are also working with public health agencies and local emergency managers to ensure drinking water systems are not impacted.

Region 10 Provides Air Program Grants Training for State of Oregon and Local Air Authority

On February 25, R10 staff will provide in-depth training about applying for and implementing Clean Air Act Grants to ODEQ and the Land Regional Air Authority. The training will include air grant program and guidance, budgets and workplan development, allowable costs, post-award monitoring, and closeout. A special focus will be the additional requirements recipients must perform when issuing subawards to carry out a portion of the grant workplan.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature

- Vegetable Oil Production RTR (Final Rule)
- Municipal Solid Waste Landfills RTR (Final Rule)
- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule)
- Boat Manufacturing and Plastic Composites RTR (Final Rule)
- NESHAP: Engine Test Cells/Standards Residual Risk and Technology Review (Final Rule)
- FIP Amendments for Managing Air Emissions from True Minor Sources in Indian Country in the Oil and Natural Gas Production and Natural Gas Processing Segments of the Oil and Natural Gas Sector (Proposed Rule)
- NESHAP: Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing (Proposed Rule)
- Heavy-Duty Technical Amendments (Proposed Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED DATE February 25, 2019)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE August 19, 2019)
- MATS RTR & Cost Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE October 4, 2019)
- SAFE (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 14)
- Fuels Regulatory Streamlining (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED January 27)
- Residential Wood Heaters NSPS Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 28)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 29)
- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 7)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Biogenic CO₂ (Proposed Rule)
- Granting Petitions to Add n-Propyl Bromide to the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants granting notice (Final Notice)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

First Two Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plants to Earn ENERGY STAR Certification

As early as February 25, the ENERGY STAR program will recognize two nitrogenous fertilizer plants (Koch Fertilizer's plant in Beatrice, NE, and Simplot's plant in Helm, CA) as the first of their kind to earn EPA's ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy performance.

AirNow Relaunch

OAR/OAQPS will relaunch the updated AirNow website in February and March. This multi-agency site, which was updated to a new, mobile-friendly format in September 2018, saw unprecedented traffic during the California wildfires of November 2018 and crashed. More than 6 million users viewed more than 30 million AirNow pages from November 9-18, 2018. OAQPS reverted to its old page at that time to ensure that the public could get information on wildfire smoke and health. In the 15 months since, OAQPS has made changes to strengthen the AirNow infrastructure (including moving from servers to cloud.gov), has conducted significant load testing, and has made adjustments to the site requested by our AirNow partners. From February 26 through March 24, AirNow users will have the option to use either the old site or the updated site (via a link from an announcements box). On March 25, OAQPS will switch to the updated site only.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

Final Designation for Low-Priority Chemical Substances for Risk Evaluation

OPPT will publish in the Federal Register as early as the week of February 24 the final designations for 20 chemical substances identified as low-priority for risk evaluation under TSCA. The documents represent the final step in prioritization, another major TSCA implementation milestone. EPA considered reasonably available information for each chemical substance under its conditions of use. EPA's designation of a chemical as low priority is a final agency action.

Rule to Modernize Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Reporting

OPPT is finalizing amendments to the Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) rule to improve the quality of CDR data collected and align reporting requirements with the Lautenberg Act amendments to TSCA. The CDR rule requires manufacturers (including importers) of certain chemical substances listed on the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory to report data on chemical manufacturing, processing, and use every four years. Key revisions include simplifying reporting, changing requirements for making confidentiality claims, and adding reporting exemptions for specific types of byproducts.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (TSCA SACC) Meetings

The TSCA SACC will meet February 25-26 to peer review EPA's draft risk evaluation for carbon tetrachloride. The SACC provides EPA independent advice and recommendations on the scientific basis for risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures and approaches for chemicals regulated under TSCA. At the meeting, the SACC will review EPA's draft risk evaluation and associated documents.

National Academies of Science (NAS) Review of TSCA Systematic Review Process – First Public Meeting

On February 28, the NAS will host the first public meeting of the peer review committee to review OCSPP's *Applications of Systematic Review of TSCA Risk Evaluations* (May 2018). EPA intends to have two speakers: one who will provide an overview of TSCA and the science requirements and a second who will give a broad overview of our approach to systematic review. A second meeting, yet to be scheduled, will provide the committee with more details regarding our specific approaches and procedures.

Proposed Revisions to the Tribal Certification and Training Plan

By March 4, OPP plans to publish for public comment in the Federal Register the EPA-administered federal pesticide applicator certification plan to certify applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in areas of Indian country that are not covered by any other EPA-approved certification plan.

Speaking Engagements

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| February 26-27 | AA Alexandra Dunn, via VTC, and OPP OD Rick Keigwin and DOD Ed Messina will participate in the OCSPP HQ/Regional Division Directors' Meeting at R6 in Dallas. |
| February 28 | Keigwin and Messina will also participate in the 2020 Commodity Classic, held this year in San Antonio, presented annually by the National Corn Growers Association, the American Soybean Association, the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Sorghum Producers, and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. |
| Week of March 2 | AA Alexandra Dunn, OPPT DOD Tala Henry, and OPPT staff will participate in ChemCon of the Americas, a bi-annual event, in Philadelphia, PA. ChemCon brings together companies, authorities, and international organizations to discuss chemical legislation. |

March 4 AA Alexandra Dunn will speak at the Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA) 2020 Annual Meeting in Portland, OR. The meeting sessions will include expert panels discussing topics such as the growing use of biostimulants and biopesticides in commercial agriculture.

Selected Upcoming Rulemaking

SNUR

Supplemental SNUR on imported products containing certain long chain PFAS substances

Office of the Chief Financial OfficerHot Topics**FY 2020 Operating Plan**

EPA's FY 2020 Operating Plan and FY 2021 Congressional Justification were delivered on time to Congress on February 10. Accompanying the Operating Plan was a formal reprogramming request to shift resources across several different programs to cover significant shortfalls in mission support activities. In coordination with OCIR, OCFO briefed appropriations staff on both the FY 2021 President's budget and the FY 2020 Operating Plan. OCFO also briefed authorizing committee staff on the FY 2021 President's budget.

FY 2021 Budget Hearings

OCFO drafted the Administrator's testimony in coordination with OPA and is working with programs and OCIR to review fact sheets and prep Administrator Wheeler for his upcoming FY 2021 Congressional Budget Hearings. The House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing is scheduled on February 27. The House Appropriations Committee hearing scheduled on March 4.

Guidance on FY 2020 Strategic Reviews and Internal Controls

The Acting CFO recently issued guidance on FY 2020 strategic reviews and internal controls. The guidance lays out the approach for senior leaders to assess the pace of progress towards EPA's strategic objectives, identify the significant risks that may hinder progress, and utilize results of FY 2020 internal control reviews to inform assurance letters.

GAO and OIG Entrance Conferences

New agency entrance conferences since the last weekly report:

GAO Audits – Week Ending 2/14/2020				
Audit Type	Title	Office	Engagement/Report No.	Next Steps/Comments
Entrance Conference	DOI Office of Natural Resource Revenue's Indian Energy Service Center	Region 8	Engagement Code 103514	Entrance conference scheduled for Wednesday, February 19

OIG Audits – Week Ending 2/14/2020				
Audit #	Title	Status	Office	Next Steps/Comments
None				

Upgrade Agency's Accounting System

OCFO's upgrade to the agency's accounting system upgrade was completed successfully on February 20. However, financial transactions in other supporting systems will be impacted through February 25, with reporting systems impacted through March 6. Agency offices should continue to work with their respective Funds Control Officer and Senior Budget Officer or Regional Comptroller to follow guidance issued to the agency resource community while remaining systems are brought back online.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- February 14 OCFO notified Regional Planners that OW's draft FY 2021 National Program Guidance Addendum is available for a two-week internal agency review. OW is the only office issuing an Addendum this year. Comments are due to OW by February 28. There is no external review of Addendums. The final Addendum will be posted to the National Program Guidance website on or before March 20.
- February 18 OCFO submitted EPA's Initial Draft FY 2020 Quarter 1 Agency Priority Goal Action Plan Updates, including responses to prior OMB comments on the draft Action Plans, to OMB. Final Drafts are due to OMB by March 16, and OMB will publish the updates on www.performance.gov in mid-April.

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

- February 27 FY 2021 Budget hearing, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change (EPA Witness: Administrator Wheeler).
- March 4 EPA's 2021 Budget hearing, House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior and Environment (EPA Witness: Administrator Andrew Wheeler).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- February 24 House Transportation & Infrastructure budget briefing on Clean Water Act programs with OW
- February 26 Representatives from the Office of Water and Region 4 will join OIR for a meeting with Scott Schroyer, Executive Director of the South Granville, N.C. Water and Sewer Authority, and James Wrenn, member, to discuss the Authority's efforts to modernize its wastewater infrastructure and secure federal and state funding support.
- February 27 Caryl F. Sheehan, President, Division One, Raymond A. Riehle, Vice President, Division Two, Hilary Straus, General, and other officials from the Citrus Heights, CA, Water District will meet with staff from OW, OAR, Region 9, and OIR to learn about EPA's programs to support communities' efforts to address water infrastructure challenges, and to promote the deployment of smart and energy efficient technologies.
- February 28 House T&I budget briefing on Clean Water Act programs with OW.
- February 29-March 4 National Association of Counties will hold its annual legislative conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC.
- March 2 Santa Cruz County, Arizona, Supervisors Manuel Ruiz and Rudy Molera and County Manager Jennifer St. John will meet with staff from OCIR, the Office of Wastewater Management, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs, and EPA Region 9 to discuss the county's challenges stemming from the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a facility which straddles the U.S. border between the sister cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora (Mexico), and is contained within the Nogales Wash, a 94 square mile watershed.
- March 3 Representatives from Leon County, Florida, will meet with staff from OCIR, the Office of Land and Emergency Management, and EPA Region 4 to discuss the county's recycling-related challenges.
- March 3 Representatives from the Jackson, Mississippi Utility Authority (JCUA) will meet with Office of Water State Revolving Fund and Water Infrastructure Finance staff and OIR for a general discussion on both topics.

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

OECD's Good Laboratory Practice Work Group and the Mutual Acceptance of Data Program

From February 16-18, OECA staff participated in a meeting of OECD's Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Work Group and the Mutual Acceptance of Data program in Sendai, Japan. A requirement of OECD's Mutual Acceptance of Data program is an onsite evaluation by a two to three-person OECD team at least once every 10 years. EPA's next OECD onsite evaluation in Washington, DC, is scheduled for the week of June 29. The workgroup meeting included planning for the June onsite evaluation, discussions on several GLP guidance documents and technical papers, and an exchange of information and experience on current GLP implementation and compliance monitoring among member countries. EPA's participation in OECD's GLP Work Group is important, as OECD member countries must accept test data from other OECD countries for regulatory decision-making. It is estimated that 80% of the European testing facilities submit studies for EPA's regulatory decisions on pesticides and toxic chemicals.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Office of General CounselHot Topics

Husch Blackwell v. EPA, No. 18-cv-1213 (D.D.C. Feb. 12, 2020). New Decision: The judge granted in part and denied in part EPA's Motion for Summary Judgment in this FOIA litigation stemming from 24 related FOIA requests filed by the law firm Husch Blackwell in October 2017. The 24 requests concern certain Agency records regarding communications with 12 different individuals related to Proposition 65's listing of glyphosate.

Canadian Shipowners Association v. EPA, Nos. 14-39 & 16-1162 (2nd Cir. Feb. 13). New Decision: The court granted EPA's Motion to Dismiss as moot two long-stayed petitions for review filed by the Canadian Shipowners Association challenging EPA's issuance of the NPDES Vessel General Permit. The court dismissed the petitions in light of the enactment of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, Pub. L. No. 115-282 (2018), now codified in the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 312(p), 33 U.S.C. § 1322(p). The court also terminated its earlier stay of the effectiveness of the NPDES General Permit as applied to vessels owned by members of the Canadian Shipowners Association.

Government of Guam v U.S., No. 1:17-cv-02487 (D. C. Cir. Feb. 14). New Decision: The court reversed a district court opinion regarding the applicability of CERCLA section 113(f)'s contribution action provisions. The case involves a landfill on the island of Guam, which was used by the Navy for years before being turned over to Guam for use as its primary municipal landfill. After the landfill was found to be leaking, the United States entered into a consent decree under the CWA in 2004 requiring Guam to address the releases from the unit into waters of the United States. When Guam filed a cost recovery and contribution action against the Navy to recover some of the costs of doing the work, the district court found that the consent decree did not resolve Guam's liability for CERCLA purposes and that therefore it did not trigger section 113(f)'s statute of limitations. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision and determined that the consent decree did resolve Guam's CERCLA liability, that Guam thus did not have a cost recovery action but instead had to file a contribution action, and that it did not file that contribution action in a timely manner.

Waterkeeper et. al. v. EPA, No. 1:20-cv-1321 (S.D.N.Y. filed Feb. 14). New Litigation: The plaintiffs filed a complaint against EPA alleging violations of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The lawsuit concerns a request for records pertaining to EPA's reconsideration of and proposed revisions to the "Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities" rule, as further clarified between plaintiffs and the agency. Specifically, the complaint alleges that EPA failed to conduct an adequate search and failed to timely respond to the request for records.

New Jersey et al v. Wheeler, No. 1:20-cv-01425, (S.D.N.Y. filed Feb. 19). New Litigation: The states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, New York, and Massachusetts, and the City of New York, filed a complaint against EPA alleging that EPA failed to fulfill its nondiscretionary duty under CAA section 110(c) to promulgate federal implementation plans (FIPs) for seven upwind states under the Clean Air Act's "good neighbor provision," CAA section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I), for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. They seek a court-ordered deadline by which EPA must promulgate "a fully-compliant Federal Plan for each of the Upwind States," as well as costs. This is the third complaint filed over substantially the same allegations.

New NOI: On February 13, the Center for Biological Diversity and Waterkeeper Alliance, along with a number of other environmental organizations, sent a letter to EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers requesting that the agencies remedy alleged ongoing violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in issuing the revised definition of "waters of the United States" on January 23.

Recent Events**Oral Argument on February 19**

Physicians for Social Responsibility et al. v. Wheeler, No. 19-5104 (D.C. Cir.). This is an appeal of the D.C. District Court decision granting EPA's motion to dismiss a challenge to the October 31, 2017 Directive entitled "Strengthening and Improving Membership on EPA Federal Advisory Committees." Plaintiffs specifically challenged one of the four advisory committee membership policies outlined in the Directive that "no member of an EPA federal advisory committee be currently in receipt of EPA grants." The plaintiffs argued before the District Court that the Directive is arbitrary and capricious in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Office of International and Tribal AffairsHot Topics**G20 Environment and Energy Preparatory Meetings**

EPA/OITA will lead the USG delegation to the first preparatory G20 Environment Deputies meeting March 3-4 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As Chair of the G20, Saudi Arabia's environment track priorities are combatting land degradation and habitat loss; improving coral reef resilience and conservation; and minimizing marine plastic litter and sharing best practices through the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue. EPA also participated in a meeting led by DOE to discuss preparations for the G20 energy track. The first preparatory G20 Energy Deputies Meeting will be held March 5-8 in Riyadh, back-to-back with the first preparatory Environment Deputies Meeting. Saudi Arabia's energy track priorities are cleaner and more sustainable energy systems for the new era; universal access to affordable and sustainable energy; more secure energy markets; and institutional framework for energy market stability.

Solid Waste Management in Remote Arctic Communities Workshop

On the margins of the Alaska Forum on the Environment, EPA (OITA, R10) co-led a workshop to further the project, *Solid Waste Management in Remote Arctic Communities*. Participating in the workshop were the Arctic Council, Indigenous People's Secretariat of the Arctic Council, Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Alaska state officials, as well as solid waste experts and community members from the North American Arctic and sub-Arctic communities. The workshop featured presentations on community needs, successful efforts on various solid waste management efforts in Alaska and Canada, and discussion of next steps for developing a funding proposal under the Arctic Council.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 25	AA McIntosh will meet with the World Resources Institute (WRI) to discuss cooperation on food waste and loss and marine litter.
February 29 – March 1	Administrator Wheeler will be the head of the USG delegation to the inauguration of Uruguay's new President-Elect, Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou.
March 3-4	EPA/OITA will lead the USG delegation to the first preparatory G20 Environment Deputies Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).

- a) CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended. OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- b) CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – This was published in the FR on February 20. The public comment period ends April 20.
- c) CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – On December 2, the Part A NPRM package was published in the FR. The 60-day public comment period ended January 31. On February 19, the Administrator signed the Part B proposed rule.

Modernizing Ignitable Liquids Determinations Final Rule

OMB has determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action and is, therefore, not subject to an interagency review prior to signature. The final rule package was distributed for workgroup closure/final review that will end on February 21.

PCB Extraction NPRM

Workgroup closure on this proposed rule ends on February 14. OLEM is revising the rule package in response to comments received. OMB has determined that this proposed rule is a significant regulatory action and, therefore, subject to interagency review.

Ongoing Major Superfund NPL sites

We are working with R1 on the Housatonic River; R2 on Woodbrook Road and Rolling Knolls; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; R8 on Butte and Anaconda Smelter; and R 10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

Administrator's Emphasis List (AEL)

OLEM is prepared to brief the Administrator on the next release of the AEL.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)

On December 4, 2019, the Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule package was signed by the court-ordered deadline. The rule was published in the FR on December 23, 2019, and the public comment period ends on February 21, 2020. For the Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM package, the Administrator signed the proposed rule on February 11, and we anticipate FR publication on February 21.

PFAS

Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM. The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20, 2019, for OMB review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- February 27 OLEM Business Review: OLEM will hold its monthly business review meeting.
- February 24 On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Academy: Peter Wright will provide opening remarks at the OSC Academy training in Chicago.
- February 26 Gypsum Site Visits: OLEM staff will join Region 4 and FL DEP representatives to participate in site visits to the National Gypsum Company and the Tampa Electric Company's Big Bend, both in Gibsonton, FL, near Tampa.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Office 365 (O365) Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) Safe Attachments & Safe Links

OMS implemented ATP Safe Attachments on January 17. Since then, ATP Safe Attachments has safeguarded our messaging system by blocking 2,955 malicious email attachments. On January 24, OMS implemented ATP Safe Links, which protects us from malicious URL links in emails. So far, ATP Safe Links has protected at least 50 employees who clicked on a malicious link, which equals about three thwarted attacks daily.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law 32nd Environmental Law Moot Court Competition

On February 22, Environmental Appeals Board Judge Kathie Stein will judge the final round of the Pace University Elisabeth Haub School of Law 32nd Annual National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition along with judges from the federal Circuit Courts of Appeals and federal district courts. This competition regularly attracts 200 competitors from law schools from all over the nation. Environmental Appeals Board Judges have judged the final round along with judges from the federal Circuit Courts of Appeals for over 25 years. The Competition has received the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources *Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy Award* for its broad national reach in engaging environmental law students on appellate brief writing and advocacy and commitment from environmental practitioners and the judiciary who judge and critique the competitors.

African American History Month Program

To celebrate African American History Month, OMS will host a celebration event on February 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Green Room. The keynote speaker is Deborah Tulani Salahu-Din, educator and researcher at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. EPA's theme for 2020 is "Uniqueness is Powerful: Diversity & Inclusion, Our Foundation for Innovation." Live streaming will be available by VTC in specific conference rooms across the nation. Prior to the live event, the Office of Public Affairs will publish a list of conference rooms where viewing is available. A recording of the event also will be available the following day on [EPAtv On-Demand](#).

2020 Presidential Rank Award Agency Review Panel Meeting

On February 24, the Presidential Rank Award Review Panel will meet to discuss the nomination and vote to select the nominations that merit the rank of distinguished or meritorious executive. Final recommendations will be submitted to the Administrator for final approval. Since 1978, the President has recognized a small group of career senior executives and senior career employees with the Presidential Rank Award every year. There are two categories of rank awards: Distinguished Rank and Meritorious Rank.

Office of PolicyHot TopicsUpcoming Major Decisions and Events**Regulatory Reform Task Force**

On February 28, the Regulatory Reform Task Force is scheduled to meet to discuss the upcoming draft Spring Regulatory Agenda.

Executive Order on Agency Guidance

By February 28, as established by Executive Order 13891, the Office of Policy plans to launch a web portal that allows public access to agency guidance documents and to issue a Federal Register Notice to announce the availability of the portal.

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

On February 25-27, the NEJAC will hold a public meeting in Jacksonville, Florida to discuss topics that include resiliency of communities following natural disasters and environmental justice issues of communities in Florida and the southeastern United States.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB		
Subject		OMB Due Date
DOD/ACE NPRM: Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits		02/20/2020
FAR NPRM: Federal Acquisition Regulation: Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (FAR Case 2019-009)		02/20/2020
Treasury/IRS NPRM: Denial of Deduction for Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts; Information With Respect To Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts		02/21/2020
OPM Interim: Hiring Authority for College Graduates		02/25/2020
DOE/EERE NPRM: Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Showerheads		02/28/2020
DOE/EERE NPRM: Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Clothes Washers and Clothes Dryers		03/03/2020
DOT/FRA NPRM: Miscellaneous Amendments to Brake System Safety Standards and Codification of Waivers		03/12/2020
DOT/FRA NPRM: Rail Integrity Amendments & Track Safety Standards		03/12/2020
Treasury/IRS NPRM: Tax on Excess Tax-Exempt Organization Executive Compensation		N/A
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers		N/A
Documents Sent to the OFR from February 13 -19, 2020		
FRL #	Title	Date Sent to FR
10005-60-Region 4	Florida: Proposed Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions	02-19-2020
10005-45-OECA	On-Site Civil Inspection Procedures	02-18-2020
10005-61-OAR	Alternative Methods for Calculating Off-cycle Credits under the Light-duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program:	02-18-2020

	Applications from Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corporation	
10005-47-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Iowa; State Implementation Plan and Operating Permits Program	02-18-2020
10005-63-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Redesignation of the Lemont and Pekin Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Areas	02-18-2020
10005-64-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Attainment Plan for Sulfur Dioxide in Southwest Indiana	02-18-2020
9992-84-OCSP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for October 2019	02-14-2020
10004-14-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District	02-14-2020
10005-62-OLEM	Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System ("e-Manifest") Advisory Board; Notice of Public Meeting	02-14-2020
10005-53-OLEM	Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA Section 108(b) for Facilities in the Chemical Manufacturing Industry	02-14-2020
10005-36-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard	02-13-2020
10005-19-Region 10	Air Plan Approval; WA; Updates to Source-Category Regulations	02-13-2020
10005-65-Region 9	Air Plan Conditional Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County	02-13-2020
10005-67-Region 9	Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Ventura County; 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements	02-13-2020
10005-37-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard	02-13-2020

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

PFAS in Region 10 Lake Imikpuk

On February 25, representatives from ORD, R10, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, North Slope Borough, and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope will meet to discuss measuring PFAS in Imikpuk Lake. This meeting is in response to a letter sent to R10 from the North Slope Borough and Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope requesting that EPA assist the University of Alaska with measuring PFAS in samples from Imikpuk Lake.

EPA TracMyAir app Demo

On February 26, ORD will present an overview of EPA's TracMyAir smartphone app at the University of Denver School of Business, Department of Marketing. TracMyAir (Patent Pending), which determines real-time air pollution exposures and inhaled dose, was selected by EPA's Technology Transfer Office for a comprehensive marketing analysis by the University of Denver due to its high potential for licensing with commercial companies (e.g., wearable activity sensor manufacturers).

Remedial Design Planning for Westlake (MO) Landfill Superfund Site

On February 18-20, ORD and contractor support statisticians will meet with R7 site representatives and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to discuss Remedial Design plans for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. The meeting will focus on the geo-statistical model used to define the extent of radiologically impacted material (RIM) greater than the remediation cleanup goals and the Preliminary Excavation Plan (PEP) prepared by the PRPs.

Sterilization Techniques on Anthrax Spores Presented at NASA's Mars Workgroup

NASA is currently planning its Mars Sample Return (MSR) Mission, where Mars soil samples previously collected and cached are returned to Earth for analysis. NASA wants to ensure these samples and the related equipment remain sterile and uncontaminated by any Earth microorganisms. In addition, NASA wants to explore bio-decontamination options in the unlikely event the Mars sample container is breached when it reaches Earth. NASA formed the MSR planning sterilization workgroup to address these issues. The next meeting is February 19-20 in Salt Lake City, and ORD has been invited to present research on techniques to sterilize materials contaminated with *Bacillus anthracis* spores, with a focus on soil sterilization.

Collaboration to Model African Swine Flu Dispersion

ORD has been asked by Department of Energy and OAQPS to consult on modeling emissions from an experimental method for disposing of pigs infected with African Swine Flu. Part of the disposal process creates an airborne aerosol that might be dispersed beyond the boundary of the farms where the disposal operation is taking place. DOE scientists are working with OAQPS modelers to create simulations of the process and to estimate the resulting dispersal patterns. These estimates are then compared to the limited measurements available.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Thermal Treatment of PFAS State of Science Workshop

February 25-27, ORD will hold an invitation-only workshop to identify the best applications/practices and identify data gaps and research needs for thermal treatment of PFAS-contaminated sites and materials. in Cincinnati, OH. The workshop will cover topics related to PFAS science such as PFAS sampling, PFAS emission characterizations, ambient background for PFAS and the need for air emission analytical measurements. Over 100 experts from EPA, Department of Defense, academia and the private sector are expected to attend. A report on the outcome of the meeting will be developed and the authors will also produce a peer-reviewed publication that assesses the strengths and weaknesses of current PFAS thermal treatment technologies and lists of suitable applications recommended for each method.

ORD Leadership to Meet with Arkansas

On March 4, ORD will meet with leadership from the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment and the Department of Health to discuss science topics of interest to the state, as well as potential collaborations, and tour the state environmental and public health labs. Topics include small water system challenges with declining population, lead in drinking water, PFAS, citizen air monitoring, nutrients and HABs and more.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

EPA/USDA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

This week, EPA-OW and the USDA-Rural Development Rural Utilities Service announced a MOA, *Promoting Sustainable Rural Water and Wastewater Systems*. Through this MOA, EPA and USDA commit to joint activities that will help rural systems face the challenges of aging infrastructure, workforce challenges, increasing costs, and declining rate bases. The MOA focuses on four key areas of sustainability, including rural communities, water system partnerships, workforce development, and system compliance with regulations. EPA and USDA have already begun the work under the MOA through joint participation in America's Water Sector Workforce Initiative: A Call to Action, asset management and financial capacity training, and coordination on water system regulatory compliance.

Preliminary Determinations for PFOA and PFOS on Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List

This week, EPA will take another important step in the Agency's PFAS Action Plan by announcing proposed regulatory determinations for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The EPA will seek public comment on its proposed regulatory determinations for eight of the 109 contaminants listed on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List. The Agency is proposing to regulate two contaminants, PFOS and PFOA. EPA is proposing to not regulate six contaminants: 1,1-dichloroethane, acetochlor, methyl bromide, metolachlor, nitrobenzene, and RDX). EPA is also asking for information and data on other PFAS substances, as well as seeking comment on potential monitoring requirements and regulatory approaches the EPA is considering for PFAS chemicals. The comment period will be open for 60 days after the notice is published in the Federal Register.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

National Water Reuse Action Plan: Collaborative Implementation (Version 1)

Next week, Administrator Wheeler and AA Ross will release *National Water Reuse Action Plan: Collaborative Implementation (Version 1)* in conjunction with an array of Federal and water partners. This Plan is envisioned as a dynamic, iterative, and progress-driven online dashboard that will be updated in real-time and supplemented by appendices to demonstrate processes behind the Plan. Launch in Washington, DC. Open to press.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) Washington Fly-In

Next week, Deputy Assistant Administrator Lee Forsgren will attend the RCAP fly-in and discuss federal agency outlook, drinking water, wastewater, and infrastructure for small/rural communities. Fly-in in Washington, DC. Closed to press.